



35

ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

5-7 July 2022 | Kuala Lumpur Time, UTC+8



Sustaining Cooperation Amid Competition

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Welcome to the 35th Asia-Pacific Roundtable

It has been another difficult year for Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. For two years, the pandemic has taken its toll on our economies and communities.

But the process of rebuilding necessitates competition. In the Asia-Pacific, countries are competing for global investments and strategic influence, hoping to reap the benefits of a world desperate to regain what it had lost.

There is an edge to our regional diplomacy now, a fierce undercurrent. If left unchecked, this could lead to a fracturing of the ties that we have built together.

Nevertheless, more and more countries in the region are opening their borders and conducting diplomacy face to face again. These signs of cooperation give us reason to hope that the spirit of competition is being tempered by the deep-rooted relationships that tie our region together.

Sustaining and growing these relationships is the heart and soul of Track Two diplomacy. We, the people who call this region home, must speak beyond our governments if we are to build lasting relationships.

To do this, we need to reaffirm our ties to each other, meet with our regional counterparts and colleagues, exchange ideas and take in the perspectives of others.

I look forward to meeting you all, exchanging views and building as well as renewing ties at the 35th Asia-Pacific Roundtable.

Herizal Hazri
ISIS Malaysia chief executive





Sustaining cooperation amid competition

The Asia-Pacific Roundtable is the signature international conference of the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. Hosted on behalf of the Asean-ISIS Network, it regularly attracts **more than 300 thinkers of various backgrounds who engage in lively, frank and constructive conversations on issues impacting the security, stability, sustainability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region.**

This year, the 35th APR has adopted the theme of **sustaining cooperation amid competition.**

We will be taking a close look at the issues that matter to the region today, including the prospect of nuclear rearmament in the region, and the impact of emerging and revised regional minilateral and multilateral mechanisms on existing Asean-led multilateral networks.

As the Asia-Pacific is projected to be one of the hardest-hit regions from climate change, we are dedicating a session to examining the impact of climate change, especially on existing strategic security and trade inflection points, as well as the prospect of COP26 in being a catalyst for climate action in the Asia-Pacific.

Our esteemed speakers and instigators were chosen based on their expertise and ability to generate thoughtful, in-depth discussions on topics that matter to the region today.

It is my sincere hope that all participants come away from the 35th APR with fresh ideas and a renewed connection to colleagues and friends, both new and old, from all over the region and beyond.

Thomas Daniel
ISIS Malaysia senior fellow

Welcoming remarks

5 July 2022 / 0930am-0950am (UTC+8)



Assoc Prof Dr Hoang Anh Tuan

Chair, Asean-ISIS Network
Vice-President, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
Vietnam



Herizal Hazri

Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Keynote address

5 July 2022 / 0950am-1010am (UTC+8)

The Honourable Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob

Prime Minister of Malaysia



Session 1

China's Dual-Circulation Strategy – A regional gamechanger

5 July 2022 / 1020am-1150am (UTC+8)

China's Dual-Circulation Strategy (DCS) aims to strengthen its domestic market and technological capabilities while balancing foreign economic activities amid a volatile global economy.

As the second largest economy in the world, the DCS has immense economic and geopolitical implications on supply chains, trading relationships and growth.

How does this strategy change the way China engages with the world? What role does the DCS play in post-pandemic recovery and the region? And what does China's aspiration for technological self-reliance mean in the context of the US-China competition?

Instigator



Dr Yose Rizal Damuri
Executive Director
Centre for Strategic and
International Studies (CSIS)
Indonesia

Main remarks



H.E. Ambassador Ouyang Yujing
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the People's
Republic of China to Malaysia

Speakers



Assoc Prof Simon Tay
Chairman
Singapore Institute of
International Affairs (SIIA)
Singapore



Prof Justin Yifu Lin
Dean
Institute of New Structural Economics
Peking University
People's Republic of China



Assoc Prof Asel Ito
Institute of Social Science
University of Tokyo
Japan



Prof Jane Golley
College of Asia & the Pacific
Australian National University (ANU)
Australia

Ambassadorial Session 1

5 July 2022 / 12pm-1230pm (UTC+8)



H.E. Dr Justin Lee
Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia

Session 2

Impact of climate change and COP26 in Asia-Pacific

6 July 2022 / 1400pm-1520pm (UTC+8)

Asia-Pacific is projected to be one of the hardest-hit regions from climate change. Among the key outcomes of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to mitigate its effects are strengthened targets to curb greenhouse gas emissions, phasing down of coal, phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and financial support for developing countries.

Yet, there is the risk of backtracked and unmet commitments.

What are the most pressing challenges for the region? How would they impact on strategic security and trade concerns? Will COP26 catalyse a transition point for climate action? How can countries adapt to climate change?

Instigator



Alizan Mahadi
Senior Director (Research)
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Speakers



Sangmin Nam
Director
Environment and
Development Division
United Nations ESCAP
Thailand



Dr Chhinh Nyda
Lecturer
Department of Economic Development
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Cambodia



Polly Hemming
Adviser
The Australia Institute
Australia



Tom Moody
Regional Director Southeast Asia,
Climate and Energy
British High Commission
Singapore

Special Address

6 July 2022 / 1520pm-1540pm (UTC+8)



Prof Dr Norbert Lammert
Chairman
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.
Germany

Session 3

A resurgent Europe in Asia- / Indo-Pacific

6 July 2022 / 1550pm-1710pm (UTC+8)

The “Indo-Pacific” construct, once considered contentious in Europe, is now at the heart of its engagement with Asia-Pacific. The European Union’s (EU) Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific outlines its engagement approach.

What are some of the key features of the strategy and how can they be realistically operationalised? How will the EU balance between economic and strategic approaches, including in the maritime domain? What is the value-add that the EU can bring to the region, specifically to Asean? Could a more proactive and structured European engagement temper conflicting interests from other Dialogue Partners?

Instigator



Dr. Nguyen Nam Duong
Associate Professor of Political Science
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
Vietnam

Speakers



H.E. Ambassador Michalis Rokas
Head
European Union Delegation
to Malaysia



Dr. Maria Thaemar C. Tana
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
University of The Philippines Diliman
The Philippines



Dr. Rahul Mishra
Director
Centre for Asean Regionalism
Universiti Malaya (CARUM)
Malaysia



Dr. Frederick Klem
Research Fellow and Lecturer
S. Rajaratnam School of
International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University
Singapore

Ambassadorial Session 2

6 July 2022 / 1720pm-1750pm (UTC+8)



H.E. Stuart Calman
New Zealand Ambassador to Asean

Session 4

Nuclear rearmament – Re-run of the arms race?

7 July 2022 / 0930am-1050am (UTC+8)

Recent unilateral decisions by nuclear-weapon states in Asia-Pacific to modernise and rearm their deterrence capabilities have reignited concerns of a new nuclear arms race.

These developments are exacerbated by declining effectiveness of arms control regimes and overlaps between the nuclear and conventional weapon delivery systems.

Will technological advancements, such as “missile renaissance”, threaten the capability and survivability of second-strike systems of nuclear weapon states? Are there more effective approaches to arms control? What options are there for non-nuclear-weapon states to mitigate these developments?

Instigator



Dell Higgle

Former Ambassador for Disarmament
New Zealand

Speakers



Dr Tong Zhao

Senior Fellow
Carnegie Endowment for
International Peace
People's Republic of China



Dr Manpreet Sethi

Distinguished Fellow
Centre for Air Power Studies
India



Andhika Yudha Prawira

Lecturer
Department of Nuclear Engineering
and Engineering Physics
Universitas Gadjah Mada
Indonesia

Session 5

Impact of major power minilateralism on Asean's multilateralism

7 July 2022 / 1100am-1230pm (UTC+8)

A feature of ongoing major power competition in Asia-Pacific has been the proliferation and entrenchment of new and competing multi- and mini-lateral mechanisms.

These include the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the Aukus trilateral pact and a revised Belt and Road Initiative. Could such developments and their impacts undermine Asean-centred mechanisms? Are there opportunities for cooperation with competing initiatives?

What are the conditions for Asean to engage and recalibrate its strategic responses in the face of these developments?

Instigator



Melissa Conley Tyler

Programme Lead
Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D)
Australia

Speakers



Dr Dino Patti Djalal

Founder
Foreign Policy Community
of Indonesia
Indonesia



Dr Sarah Teo

Assistant Professor
S. Rajaratnam School of
International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University
Singapore



Prof Aries A. Arugay

Department of Political Science
University of The Philippines Diliman
The Philippines

Closing remarks

7 July 2022 / 1230pm-1250pm (UTC+8)



Alizan Mahadi

Senior Director (Research)
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

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